07.	Dr. Raju Sharma Assoc. Prof. of Radio Diagnosis	06.01.2001	05.09.2002	One year & eight months	His request for grant of extension for 3 months from 5.09.2002 has not been agreed to, hence he has been asked to report for duty immediately. His reply/joining is still awaited.

Increase in TB cases

43. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there have been high rate of TB cases in Delhi;

(b) if so, the complete details of TB patients reported in various hospitals of Delhi during the last one year;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are setting up a Multi-drug Resistance TB Treatment centre in some hospitals of Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether there can be cases of TB where there are no apparent symptoms of TB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The incidence of TB has remained more or less constant all over the country over the last few years. However, increase in reporting of TB cases in comparison to previous year is attributed to good case detection rate due to improvement in Programme Management and the Programme becoming more popular.

Under the Programme hospital-wise details of patients is not maintained. However, district-wise figures in rural areas and chest clinic-wise in urban areas are being maintained. A Statement indicating details of TB patients reported under 20 chest clinics of Delhi is given *(See* below).

(d) and (e) The priority of the National Programme is to cover the entire country under DOTS. Presently 504 million population has access to DOTS. The entire country is likely to be covered by 2005. Therefore, at present there is no provision for setting up of Multi-Drug Resistance (MDR) TB Treatment Centres under National Programme. However, some hospitals like LRS Institute of TB and Allied Diseases are providing treatment for MDR TB patients.

(f) Yes, Sir. There could be cases of TB where there are no apparent symptoms of TB, as the symptoms depend upon duration of disease and site of lesion etc.

Statement

TB cases registered under Chest Clinics during the year 2001-02 at Delhi

Sl. No.	Name of Chest Clinic RNTCP Districts of Delhi	TB cases detected during 2001-02
1.	BJRM	163
2.	DDU	2048
3.	GTB	1024
4.	Gulabi Bagh	1228
5.	Jhandewalan	778
6.	Karawal Nagar	2264
7.	Kingsway Camp	1698
8.	L N Chest Clinic	259
9.	LRS Institute	2942
10.	Moti Nagar	2240
11.	Narela	683
12.	NDMC	1414
13.	NDTC	673
14.	Nehru Nagar	2290
15.	Patparganj	1490
16.	R K Mission	1255
17.	RTRM	500

Sl. No.	Name of Chest Clinic RNTCP Districts of Delhi	TB cases detected during 2001-02
18.	SGM	1847
19.	Shahadara	1758
20.	SPM Marg	828
	Total: No.	27382
	Rate/lac	198

Bio-terrorism

†44. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make the labs of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) capable to combat the threat of bio-terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to take assistance from foreign agencies for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government of India has given higher priority to strengthen the country's capacity to combat the threat of bio-terrorism. It has developed plan to train the staff, and upgrade laboratories of various national level institutes including those of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR has developed a detailed plan of action for the purpose.

(b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, majority of its Institutes are disease specific. Therefore, keeping in mind the expertise available they have been identified with specific organism. Because of the infectious nature of these organisms they are needed to be handled in specifically designed bio-safety laboratories. A BSL-3 facility is being

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.